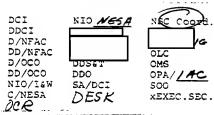
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IRANIAN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN ON U.S. PLANE CRASH NC251235 PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1231 GMT 25 APR 80

(TEXT) TEHRAN, APRIL 25 (AFP)--A CHASE BY IRANIAN AIR FORCE
PLANES CAUSED THE COLLISION TODAY OF TWO UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT
ON A MISSION TO RESCUE THE U.S. EMBASSY HOSTAGES HERE, AN IRANIAN
AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN DENIED HOWEVEER THAT IRANIAN AIRCRAFT HAD OPENED FIRE ON THE AMERICAN PLANES.

HE SAID THAT PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE COLLISION HAD INVOLVED A C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE AND A HELICOPTER WERE FALSE, BUT DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHAT KIND OF U.S. PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.

25 APR 1249Z JU/CAJ *****